

Below: Comal CHC is awarded THC's Distinguished Service Award year after year because of its concerted efforts to survey, designate, and protect county historic resources. Comal County participated in THC's Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program to restore its 1898 courthouse picture here. The Comal County Courthouse was rededicated in 2013 after its restoration.

Left: Travis CHC provides preservation leadership to its region and the state. Above, county officials present THC's Distinguished Service Award to Travis CHC appointees.

CHC Outreach Program

THC formed the CHC Outreach Program in 2008 to support CHCs efforts to save the real places that tell the real stories of Texas.

For more information, search thc.texas.gov using the phrase, CHC Outreach or call 512-463-5853.

COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSIONS



COMAL COUNTY COURTHOUSE
THC DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

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REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

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TRAVIS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
THC DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

What Is a CHC?

County Historical Commissions (CHCs) were established by the Texas Legislature to assist county commissioners courts and the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to preserve the cultural and historic resources of our state. Texas' Local Government Code directs CHCs to initiate and manage activities as prioritized by their county and the THC.

CHC Responsibilities

- Annually report to the county commissioners court and the THC
- Meet at least four times each year
- Survey county historic resources
- Assess and maintain historical markers, buildings, and sites
- Create awareness and appreciation of historic preservation
- Partner with other preservation entities
- Promote cultural and historic sites to develop and sustain heritage tourism
- Participate in THC programs and consult with THC preservation specialists

Notable CHC Efforts

More than 400,000 CHC volunteer hours are provided annually. Note the broad range of CHC achievements listed below:

- Cherokee CHC promotes area tourism by creating history exhibits for community events and brochures about county trails and markers.
- Jeff Davis CHC promotes public history by working with area partners to research topics, map historic sites, and develop interpretive panels for citizens and visitors.
- Jim Hogg CHC honors its vaquero history with Ranching Heritage Day events that educate and inspire those who attend.
- Liberty CHC manages a diverse workload that ranges from hands-on cemetery preservation to production of tourism material that emphasizes local history and sites.
- Lubbock CHC works with county repositories to preserve records and artifacts that are used to document and interpret local history.
- Montgomery CHC makes history fun by hosting an annual road rally in which families and friends team up to race to historic sites around the county, learning along the way.
- Webb CHC partnered with TV producers to create programming that explores Laredo history with an emphasis on the importance of preservation and the oral histories.

CHC Appointee Selection

Potential CHC appointees should demonstrate an interest in, and understanding of, local history and historic resources, and usually already serve with other preservation organizations. Final selection should create a commission with a broad range of ages, ethnicities, and skills, as well as include representation from each precinct. Before making appointments, consider selection criteria recommended by CHC Outreach staff posted on the THC website.

CHC Appointment Confirmation County commissioners courts should confirm appointments in January of odd-numbered years, securing a two-year term commitment. Counties notify the THC by providing an appointee roster—name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address.